ABSTRACT

A method for minimizing contact between a needle point and a needle thread in a computer controlled embroidery machine, to prevent breakage of the needle thread by the needle point upon penetration of a workpiece during stitching. The method includes the steps of: determining a first straight path between a current needle penetration location and a next needle penetration location; and, moving to the next needle penetration location along a second non-straight path so that the needle thread is pulled away from the needle point.